



Superintendent's Report

Board of Education Meeting – December 15, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

Ambitious Instruction – *Classes are academically demanding and engage students by emphasizing the application of knowledge.*

- Summer program opportunities are being developed and are expected to include a new partnership with Indian Prairie Public Library and two, new STEM Camps for students at GW and GM ([Appendix A](#))
- Our K-8 students had the opportunity to explore their individual aptitude in various forms of computer coding (visual programming, writing code) as part of the international “[Hour of Code](#)” program (Dec 7-13)
- The Illinois State Board of Education released 2014-2015 School Report Cards - found by using this [link](#). Student [PARCC](#) data is now included. 59.4% of Gower students were proficient or better - ([Appendix B](#))
- Middle of Year NWEA/MAP testing in ELA and Math begins on Jan 11 for K-8 students

Supportive Environment – *The school environment is safe, clean and conducive to student learning. Teachers have high expectations for students. Students have the support of their teachers as well as their peers.*

- Year to Date attendance rates (Previous Year): 96.6% (96.3%) for our 880 (833) students; 96.6% (96.7%) for our 80 (72) Certified Staff and 96.6% (96.9%) for our 65 (64) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Required staff trainings (Limited English Proficiency Program) were held during Nov. faculty meetings at respective schools and led by Gower staff members
- Our 8th graders students and parents will have the opportunity to meet with Hinsdale High School District 86 guidance counselors on Jan. 14th to build and review their freshman schedule
- Facilities Update: GM courtyard plans continue (final architect drawings expected by early Jan). Capital improvements under review include: Boilers (GM), Art room, exterior doors (GW)

Involved Families and Community – *Strong relationships are built across the community to support learning.*

- We hosted 200+ visitors at GW (11/17) and nearly 150 at GM (11/19) for “Bring Your Parents to School Day”. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Mark your calendars for next year 11/15, GW & 11/17, GM
- More than 250 families attended the annual Pancakes with Santa Breakfast hosted by the Burr Ridge/Willowbrook [Kiwanis Club](#) at Gower West (12/5)
- The GM Jazz Band and Choir performed for residents of King Bruwaert House in Burr Ridge on 12/8
- The GM Band (gr. 7-8) participated in the Lakeview Junior High Symphonic Band Festival (12/5) and hosted another full crowd for the annual Winter Band Concert at GM, gr. 5-8 (12/10)
- Please join us at the annual Gower PTO Holiday Bazaar and Movie Night at GW (12/11). Also, keep an eye out for information regarding an exciting, GM Courtyard fundraiser that is sure to be “etched in stone”

Collaborative Teachers and Staff – *The staff is committed to the school, receives strong professional development, and works together to improve the school.*

- Teacher In-service on Dec 2nd focused on grade level Writing Plans and Special Ed. Goal development
- Professional Development (12/18) will include INNOVATE 62 Committee-led training to include global learning (extending and connecting classrooms), collaboration, real-world problem solving, Defined STEM
- The [Flippen Group](#) will visit GW on Jan. 7th as part of the [Capturing Kids' Hearts Showcase Schools Award](#)
- Our after-school committee meetings continue and most recently included the Social Studies, CKH Process Coaches, Technology and Science Showcase Committee in support of our 2015-16 improvement efforts

Effective Leaders – *School leaders work with staff to implement a clear and strategic vision for school success.*

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) will open on Jan 11th and we encourage all Gower parents to participate
- Collaboration efforts with D86 continue as the first administration of the “Freshman Readiness Survey” is underway (launched Nov. 23 with implementation plan/participation rates currently under review)
- Gower's i3 Learning Initiative has been recognized as a potential model for implementation (school district collaboration, site visits) and is being reviewed locally for ongoing implementation (8th gr. devices/buyout)
- Gower will be included as part of a West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence ([WSCAE](#)) application for an [IMS A Fusion grant](#) to impact STEM learning opportunities (gr. 4-8) next school year